



**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
THE DIOCESE OF TOLEDO**

1933 SPIELBUSCH AVENUE  
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Dear Friends in Christ,

A few years ago, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our Diocese of Toledo entered into a partnership with the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in Louisiana which was devastated, especially among those who are poorest in the area along the bayous and in the core of the cities.

Thanks to you, the Catholics of our diocese, we have been able to assist the people of Houma-Thibodaux in their efforts to rebuild. Just recently the last donations were sent from our Catholic Charities Disaster Response Office to their diocese, as their funds were depleted and many homes are yet to be rebuilt or elevated as required by law.

Now, I am sorry to report that one of the hardest hit areas of the latest hurricane, Gustav, was once again the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

In addition to asking for your prayers for those who are suffering, I also ask for your renewed generosity. Please make a donation to our Catholic Charities for recovery support of the people in our partner diocese in Louisiana.

It is important to note that the relationship of our two dioceses has truly been a partnership. When there was terrible flooding in our own diocese in 2007, the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese was the first to respond. Not only did they support us with prayer and advice on clean-up—they also sent a check for \$5,000 to assist in our efforts to aid the communities affected. Despite their own unmet needs, this diocese of just over a hundred thousand Catholics reached out to us and helped us to assist in the recovery and rebuilding of our communities.

I thank you for generosity and support of our brothers and sisters in Houma-Thibodaux. Sister Christine Pratt, Director of the Disaster Response Office of Catholic Charities, continues to monitor the situation there and will update us through the diocesan and Catholic Charities websites.

Our prayers are with all the persons and communities of the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricane Gustav over the Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair  
Bishop of Toledo